



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

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Dear Schools and Partners:

Idaho schools have been making headway in recent years to create a positive impact on student health. There has been an increased focus on implementing wellness policies and practices around physical activity and nutrition to improve the health and achievement of students. Despite these efforts, studies show that almost 30 percent of Idaho students are overweight or obese. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Physical Activity and Nutrition (IPAN) Program is invested in helping Idaho school districts continue to work to improve student health.

We know lifetime choices begin in childhood; particularly those choices that help children establish and maintain a healthy weight. *The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010* recently signed into law includes several strategies to influence these choices, including a focus on competitive foods in schools. Competitive foods are any foods or beverages offered at schools that fall outside of the meals and snacks served through the federally reimbursed school breakfast, lunch and after-school programs. Under the Act, the USDA will be creating nutrition standards for competitive foods in schools that all schools will be required to adopt and implement.

In order to assist Idaho schools to get ahead and provide healthy food options, IPAN is **providing an opportunity for all Idaho school districts to apply for \$2,000 - \$10,000 mini-grants** to participate in the "Healthy Schools Competitive Foods" pilot project. Up to five awards will be granted. Award size will vary depending on the size and proportion of schools participating in the district.

School districts awarded will be required to adopt and implement district-wide policies for competitive food nutrition standards during the 2011-2012 school year. IPAN will provide one-on-one trainings for each school district in the spring of 2011 to guide policy development and to prepare for implementation. IPAN staff will also be available throughout the project for technical assistance.

Mini-grant applications can be downloaded at www.ipan.dhw.idaho.gov. The application deadline is March 14, 2011. Selections will be made by March 28, 2011. All applicants will receive notification of awards in writing. We look forward to seeing your district's application and plan to help healthy students achieve more. If you should have any questions, please contact Rebecca Lemmons, Coordinated School Health Program Specialist, at lemmonsr@dhw.idaho.gov or 208-334-5610.

Sincerely,

ELKE SHAW-TULLOCH
Chief, Bureau of Community and Environmental Health
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